

In the Claims:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1), please amend claims 15-16, 20-21 and 37. Please also cancel claims 27-36 and 46. Please add new claims 47-58. As required by required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(i), all amended claims are reproduced below in clean form. For the convenience of the Examiner, all presently pending claims are also reproduced below. Marked-up copies of the amended claims as required by required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(ii) are provided in the Appendix B to this Response.

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

Sub D1 > 15. (Twice amended) A holder usable to create a continuous loop formed by matingly interlocking adjacent such holders, the holder comprising:

first and second walls retained a spaced-apart distance from each other and sufficiently adapted to admit and frictionally retain at least a portion of at least one object to be retained by said holder;

68 a first holder-engaging mechanism; and

a second holder-engaging mechanism; and

wherein said first holder-engaging mechanism on said holder is disposed to matingly interlock with a second holder-engaging mechanism on a second said holder, and said second holder-engaging mechanism on said holder is disposed to matingly interlock with the first holder-engaging mechanism on a third said holder to form said loop, such that said second holder-engaging mechanism of each said holder is shaped and adapted to be seated in a groove between adjacent teeth on a sprocket.

Sub D2
C9
16. (Once Amended) The holder of claim 15, further including at least one projecting member located on at least one of said first and second walls to retain said object.

17. The holder of claim 15, wherein said holder is integrally formed as a single piece of material.

Sub D3
C10
18. The holder of claim 15, wherein said holder comprises injection-molded plastic.

Sub D4
C11
19. The holder of claim 15, wherein said object is a compact disk jewel case.

set for in two holders
(20) (Once Amended) The holder of claim 15, wherein said holder is sized to retain two objects such that both objects are aligned in the same horizontal plane.

Sub D5
C12
21. (Once Amended) The holder of claim 20, further including:

a rib member joined to a portion of each of said first and second walls to bifurcate an object retaining space between said first and second walls into space to retain at least a portion of a first object and into space to retain at least a portion of a second object; and

a projecting member formed on at least one of said first and second walls on a surfacing facing a retained first said object and facing a retained second said object.

22. (Cancelled)

Sub D6
C13
23. The holder of claim 15, wherein at least one of said first holder engaging mechanism and said second engaging mechanism projects outwardly from said holder.

~~24.~~ (Cancelled)

~~25.~~ (Cancelled)

~~26.~~ (Cancelled)

~~27.~~ (Cancel)

~~28.~~ (Cancel)

~~29.~~ (Cancel)

~~30.~~ (Cancel)

~~31.~~ (Cancel)

~~32.~~ (Cancel)

~~33.~~ (Cancel)

~~34.~~ (Cancel)

~~35.~~ (Cancel)

36. (Cancel)

Sub D7.
37. (Once Amended) A adapted to matingly interlock with adjacent such holders to create a continuous loop of said holders, the holder comprising:

a base having an inward and outward surface, said inward surface having a male coupling mechanism and a female coupling mechanism said male and female coupling mechanisms extending inwardly from said inward surface;

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first and second members spaced-apart from each other a distance sufficient to admit and frictionally retain at least a portion of a compact disc (CD) jewel case to be retained by said holder, and said first and second member extending outwardly from said outward surface; and

said male and female coupling mechanism matingly interlock adjacent holders to each other to form said continuous loop.

38. The holder of claim 37, wherein said holder is injection molded plastic.

39. The holder of claim 37, wherein said first and second members are spaced-apart from each other approximately 5".

40. The holder of claim 37, wherein said first and second members are spaced-apart from each other a distance approximating at least a top-to-bottom thickness of a CD jewel case to be retained by said holder.

41. The holder of claim 37, wherein said means for matingly interlocking includes a first curved projecting member sized and disposed to matingly interlock with a second region on an adjacent said holder, and includes

a second region sized and disposed to matingly interlock with a first curved projecting member on an adjacent said holder.

42. The holder of claim 37, further including at least one L-shaped interlock member integrally formed on a surface of said holder opposite from a surface facing a CD jewel case retained in said holder.

43. The holder of claim 37, wherein said holder is sized to retain two CD jewel cases in a side-by-side configuration.

44. The holder of claim 37, wherein one of said members includes a projection disposed to aid in retaining a CD jewel case retained by said holder.

45. The holder of claim 37, wherein one of said members includes at least one projection disposed to frictionally retain a ridge-shaped lip on a CD jewel case retained by said holder.

46. (Cancel)

47. (New) A holder to retain a compact disc, the holder adapted to interlock with similar holders to form a continuous loop, each holder comprising:

a base, having a male coupling mechanism and a female coupling mechanism;

a support structure extending from the base, having a retaining mechanism adapted to engage the center hole of the compact disc; and

wherein the male coupling mechanism of said holder is adapted to interlock with the female

coupling mechanism of an adjacent holder to form a flexible hinge, creating the continuous loop.

48. (New) A holder as recited in Claim 47, wherein the support structure extends substantially perpendicular from the base.

49. (New) A holder as recited in Claim 47, wherein the retaining mechanism includes a plurality of flexible fingers forming a circle with a diameter approximately the same as the diameter of the center hole of the compact disc.

50. (New) A holder to retain a compact disc jewel-case, the holder adapted to interlock with similar holders to form a continuous loop, each holder comprising:

a base section adapted to be located adjacent a first edge of the jewel-case, having a male coupling mechanism and a female coupling mechanism, said female coupling mechanism having an inner surface and an outer surface;

a first finger extending from the base section and adapted to receive a second edge of the jewel-case;

a second finger extending from the base section and adapted to receive a third edge of the jewel-case; and

wherein said inner surface of said female coupling mechanism of said holder interlocks with a male coupling mechanism of an adjacent holder so that said base section of the holders form the continuous loop, and further where said outer surface of said female coupling mechanism is shaped and adapted to be seated in a groove between adjacent teeth on a sprocket, promoting the jewel-case to fan-out at a turnaround region.

51. (New) The holder as recited in Claim 50, wherein the first and second fingers have a protrusion to frictionally retain the jewel-case, said protrusion sized and positioned to interlock with mating slots that are formed on the edges of the jewel-case.

52. (New) A holder to retain a compact disc, the holder adapted to interlock with similar holders to form a continuous loop, each holder comprising:

a base, having a male coupling mechanism and a female coupling mechanism, said female coupling mechanism having an inner surface and an outer surface, said base adapted to retain the compact disc; and

said inner surface of said female coupling mechanism interlocks with said male coupling mechanism of an adjacent holder so that said base section of the holders form the continuous loop, and said outer surface of said female coupling mechanism is shaped and adapted to be seated in a groove between adjacent teeth on a sprocket, promoting the housing to fan-out at a turnaround region.

53. (New) The holder as recited in Claim 52, wherein the base further has a slotted space that can store promotional printed material.

54. (New) The holder as recited in Claim 52, wherein the base further has a felt wiper to wipe dust from the compact disc.

55. (New) A holder to retain an object, the holder adapted to interlock with similar holders to form a continuous loop, each holder comprising:

a base, having a male coupling mechanism and a female coupling mechanism, said female

coupling mechanism having an inner and outer surface;

a support structure extending from the base, having a retaining mechanism to frictionally retain the object; and

said inner surface of said female coupling mechanism interlocks with a male coupling mechanism of an adjacent holder so that said base of the holders form a continuous loop, the male coupling mechanism nesting within the female coupling mechanism, and said outer surface of said female coupling mechanism is shaped and adapted to be seated in a groove between adjacent teeth on a sprocket.

56. (New) A holder to retain an object, the holder adapted to interlock with similar holders to form a continuous loop, each holder comprising:

a base having an interior surface to frictionally retain the object and an exterior surface having a male coupling mechanism and a female coupling mechanism, said female coupling mechanism having a rounded inner surface and a rounded outer surface;

a support structure extending from said base, having a retaining mechanism to frictionally retain the object; and

said rounded inner surface of said female coupling mechanism interlocks with a male coupling mechanism of an adjacent holder so that said bases of the holders form a continuous loop, and further where said rounded outer surface of said female coupling mechanism is shaped and adapted to be seated in a groove between adjacent teeth on a sprocket.

57. (New) A holder to retain an object, the holder adapted to interlock with similar holders to form a continuous loop, each holder comprising:

a base having an outward surface adapted to be adjacent an edge of the object and an inward

surface having a male coupling mechanism and a female coupling mechanism, said female coupling mechanism having a rounded inner surface and a rounded outer surface;

a first and second finger extending from the base, each finger having a retaining mechanism adapted for retaining an edge of the object; and

wherein the rounded inner surface of the female coupling mechanism of said holder is adapted to interlock with a male coupling mechanism of an adjacent holder to form a flexible hinge, the male coupling mechanism nesting within the female coupling mechanism, and said rounded outer surface of the female coupling mechanism is shaped and adapted to nest within a groove between adjacent teeth of a sprocket.

58. (New) A holder to retain an object, the holder adapted to interlock with similar holders to form a continuous loop, each holder comprising:

a base with an inwardly facing surface and an outwardly facing surface;

a structure adapted to retain the object extending outwardly from the outward facing surface;

a male coupling mechanism and a female coupling mechanism, said male and female coupling mechanisms extending inwardly from the inward facing surface, with the female coupling mechanism having an inner surface and a rounded outer surface; and

wherein said inner surface of said female coupling mechanism of said holder is adapted to interlock with a male coupling mechanism of an adjacent holder to form a flexible hinge, the male coupling mechanism nesting with the female coupling mechanism, and the rounded outer surface of the female coupling mechanism is shaped and adapted to nest within a groove between adjacent teeth of a sprocket.